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24 DEC 1970

**MEMORANDUM FOR:** Director, Office of Basic and Geographic Intelligence

**THROUGH :** Director of Logistics

JFB  
7 JAN 1971

**SUBJECT :** Automated Correction/Edit System for Production of the National Intelligence Survey

1. The purpose of this memorandum is to draw attention to benefits which may be derived from the utilization of a computerized correction/edit system in your Editorial Division. This correction/edit system would assist OBGI in providing the required corrected magnetic tape as input to the EPIC System, effecting savings in OBGI, this Division, and the Office of Computer Services (OCS).

2. In 1966, when the EPIC System was implemented, one of its goals was the elimination of paired proofreadings in PSD of the material produced on customer or source tape. That goal has not been achieved as yet, because the Editorial Division has been unable to provide the necessary perfect tape as input to the system. The slow printout speed of the typing device (15 characters per second) makes a complete readout and verification of the tapes after source preparation and editorial revision an excessive burden on your Editorial Division.

3. Originally, the source tapes were prepared on the Dura Mach 10 keyboards which produced punched paper tape. When the devices and the paper tape system proved unreliable, a switch was made to the equipment used today--the IBM Magnetic Tape/Selectric Typewriter (MT/ST). Although the MT/ST system is an improvement over the previous perforated paper tape system, there are still limiting factors which prevent the elimination of the paired proofreadings in PSD. This is true because the tapes cannot provide the necessary codes to produce an exact rendition of the intended manuscript, and also because extensive verification is required after computer processing in order to insure that the necessary changes and additions (e. g., accents) have been made.

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4. In order to provide the Editorial Division with a correction/edit system that would fulfill their requirement for producing clean tape and, subsequently, eliminate the paired readings, the EPIC System Development Team (members representing PSD, OCS, and OBGI) solicited and obtained preliminary proposals from 11 companies for design, installation, and maintenance of a system that would permit conversion of the MT/ST tapes to computer compatible tape, provide for display and edit capabilities on either a cathode ray tube or selectric terminal, printout at 350 lines per minute (480 characters per second), and out-put the updated manuscript to a computer tape for processing through the EPIC System.

5. One firm, Information Control Systems, Inc., demonstrated an operating system called "Astrotype" which the EPIC team concludes will meet the design characteristics mentioned above. Such a system would cost approximately \$75,000 if purchased, or would rent for \$2,400 per month. It is felt that the \$2,400 per month would be more than offset by the following savings for PSD, OCS, and OBGI:

a. Savings in PSD would amount to 4 manyears (\$4,000 per month) by eliminating paired readings, eliminating the requirement for keying and proofing lengthy change statements, and reducing the work involved in the updating of tapes. PSD could also eliminate one MT/ST at \$264 per month.

b. Savings in OCS would amount to \$1,176 per month. This figure reflects a reduction in the total Central Processing Unit (CPU) time for the Autoformat Program (which processes the changes), and visualizes one less update per job. NIS production now requires about 8.4 hours per month CPU time for the Autoformat Program. Updates take an average of 2 minutes each. Sixteen less updates per month would result in savings of \$210 for CPU and printout time.

c. Savings in OBGI would be reflected in the elimination of two MT/ST's at \$273 per month for each.

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6. In summary, it is estimated that the monthly rental cost of \$2,400 would be more than offset by the identifiable savings of \$6,000 per month in men and equipment for PSD, OBGI, and OCS, as mentioned in the preceding paragraph. The system also will add to the efficiency of the Editorial Division by allowing more tapes to be processed with the same number of people and provide greater flexibility in handling other work such as the Fact Book and Status Reports. I hope that you will be able to proceed with the implementation of this improvement in NIS production as soon as possible. The EPIC System Development Team will be available to provide detailed specifications for acquisition of the equipment and also for any additional information desired.

**Chief**  
**Printing Services Division, OL**

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**CONCURRENCES:**

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OCS Member, EPIC/SDT

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OBGI Member, EPIC/SDT

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**OL/PSD Member, EPIC/SDT**

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**cc: D/OCS  
DD/S IPC  
DD/I IPC**

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